

Washington, DC - Reigniting an old debate, the Obama Administration announced earlier this year it was considering a move to bill veterans' private insurance companies for treatment of combat-related injuries in order to save the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) approximately \$530 million a year. Currently, if a soldier is injured during the line of duty, he or she receives free care from the VA based on that service connected injury. Upon hearing this, U.S. Rep. John Hall, Chair of the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, sprang to action and immediately asked the Obama Administration to drop this proposal.

Hall joined with other Members of Congress to urge President Obama to not go through with this proposal.

"We don't give our veterans healthcare, they earn it, and it would be a travesty for the VA to ask our veterans to pay for the treatment of injuries received while serving our nation in uniform. This responsibility rests solely with the VA and it would be wrong to outsource the responsibility of covering the care of those veterans to private insurance companies," said Hall.

After much warranted resistance from Veterans Service Organizations, Senators, and Congressmen, the Obama Administration has abandoned the controversial proposal.

"I was pleased to hear that this proposal was immediately abandoned," said Hall. "Veterans have served our country with bravery and honor, and in return they deserve nothing but the best care that we can provide. Our government can and must do better to serve those who have sacrificed so much to defend our freedom."